Black Journal Taping/ Gregory-Grodin-Zapruder 2/24/75

Tony Brown of Black Journal phoned me last Thursday to ask if I'd participate in a show on conspiracies with Dick Gregory on the same side and with both McMillans opposed. I agreed. He asked how to reach the McMillans and I have him three addrssees but told him not to expect them to confront me. While he seemed to have some reason for believing the would, shortly later an assistant phoned to ask thte names of others who might oppose. I ticked off a long list, beginning with Rankin, but again said not to expect opposition.

I asked Jerry Policoff to see if he could meet the train and to tell Grodin that is there is anything he wants to discuss, to please also meet the train because there would be other things I wanted to do after I left them (Saturday, the day before the taping).

They were 45 minutes late, we were delayed getting to Glanze's, where I stayed, they drove me to a meetingwith Jan Scudder, who is all the way downtown, so we have plenty of time to talk.

Robert had been to L.A. to do Mort Sahl's show. (Sahl now hates Lane.)

He said the deal had been for him and Gregory to be on the show. I told him I'd been told four only because the total of five is more than one can expect without all cross-talk. He claims this had always been the deal.

He was strong in complaint against the show (he said station, but it was also net and also counsel) claiming they had broken agreements and were plain cowardly. He said they were considering paying Time $10,000 for the use of the Z film and if they did he would not appear. Unless they bought the rights they'd not show it.

There was no way of reasoning with him about the costs and problems of litigation. He claimed that Time was actually looking for a way of letting the film be used without problems from that (like Zapruder's son suing), without letting it appear that they were allowing it, and so they could avoid being charged with suppressing it. I told them I could and would be more than glad to solve their problem, to refer the right one to me.

The WDSU film from which he claims to have identified Gonzalez of Watergate leaving the jail after Oswald had been arrested turns out to be not the movie footage which I had borrowed but he had copied but stills of which he is to let me have copies that Life had of this footage, NOT from me.

I told him there was no possibility it was not Celso Hernandez and he seemed stunned when I persisted with proofs. He just would not believe. I told him again that when I am no farthur than a telephone this is the depths of irresponsibility and not the first.

I was out late. It was after 3 when I went to bed. The morning Walter had a crippling headache. When he awakened he told me that he had tried to phone Gregory, had spoken to the secretary, and had been told that an urgent emergency had come up unexpectedly and Dick would not be able to be on the show. I told Walter this had to mean a single guest and a white one to boot on an all-black show and that under the circumstances I had to let Tony Brown know. Walter had his home phone because I'd told Brown the fastest way to get a copy of Frame-Up was to borrow Walter's. I phoned Brown at home and told him. He said that is not at all the way it was, that Dick had phoned him about 4:30 a.m. that or the previous morning from Detroit and with apologies for the late request but with the insistent demand that he have what Brown described as his "entire entourage" on the show with him. Brown mentioned Grodin and Schoenmann only before he started talking about something else. How would we handle conspiracy. He by then knew that the McMillans would not show. I don't recall whether he discussed any other guests. I know I didn't ask about others. I also know he wanted two sides, but I'd let him know about Gregory, about whom he knew. I suggested that he consider two conspiracies; whether or not there had been conspiracies to commit the crimes and whether these had been followed by conspiracies to deceive the people, to hide the fact and the truth. He liked that, more when I got into FOI. He ssemed both pleased and a little excited.

He asked that I get to the studio at 5 rather than 7 for an 8 taping and I said I would. I also gave him a brief description of the documents I'd brought, anticipating opposition and figuring maybe the McMillans would be crazy and come.

By then it was mid-afternoon. Jerry had been supposed to pick me up in time to get me there by 7, with Robert. So, I phoned Jerry, who at first was out. I

did reach him after some time has passed and there remained but little. I then also had to give him Walter's unlisted phone in case he had to reach me.

Shortly thereafter, after Ed Kabak, who returned filed, had come, Robert called me. He was still angry, offended and strong in protesting abuse. He said he was not going to be on the show even though he had given his word that he would explain the Nix film, which was going to be show. "You can do it as well, " he told me, a great condensation.

I told him he should let Brown know if he was expected and he said they were treating him dirty and he would treat them the same. I told him to do what he thought was right but that aside from what I'd already told him about the apparent problems and situation of the station/Kabak was there, he is a lawyer, he had just given me the Time/Geis decision, which he'd just reread, and he'd said that as house counsel for the net or show he'd have given the same advice. Robert just wasn't listening.

He did not show up. Nobody did for two hours or more except Jerry and me. Before Brown came there was a call for me from counsel (Ricker, phon) who wantedto know about the documants I'd mentioned. I presumed that with these recent experiences he was apprehensive about their source, authenticity, ownership, etc., so I gave him a full explanation and offered them to him in advance. I told him all were mine, almost all had court stamps on them, and none were secret. We had a long chat and he seemed quite reassured and ended up saying he didn't want the copies I'd offered.(We had a long talk about the Nay discovery, and he said he was impressed, as he seemed to be.) We did not get into these documnets on the show but I did show them to Brown, particularly the longer ones, which I'd marked in the margin. While waiting for Brown to come and after the call I made it a point to show the files to his staff. They were excited and impressed.

When Brown came he showed the version of Nix he was going to use and asked me to explain its significance. I restricted myself to two points: backward motion and destroying the later explanation that acceleration casused it. I gave explanations and details Robert could not have. He was tickled to have it so simple and so overwhelmingly apparent.

I had told him when he first phoned that I'd want to avoid fighting with Dick over what I regarded as the insane. At the previewing he said they were also going to run an excerpt from the previous show Dick had done with Jack Anderson as well as about 8 minutes from an earlier show they'd done on Malcolm X. The Dick stuff I did not see until/we were on the air. It and what I'd prepared in advance enabled me not to attack Dick , not to criticize, but in fact to backstop by restricting what I addressed and by adding my own proofs. Like on edited film.

It went well. They were all tickled and said so. Jerry was satified. He said he thought I'd done all possible to help the zanies and that it was a good show.

They deliberately ran 10 minutes over and will edit down to an hour.

For reasons not apparent the taping also started late so I couldn't make the last train. The planes could not fly so I stayed over with Walter and gave him as much explanation as I could. He will be able, if he desires, to show Dick how crazy some of his newer stuff is, like "Gonzalez."

I think that as aired it will appear that Brown was giving another side. We both acted like there was disagreement. There wasn't. He also went into much we hadn't discussed and avoided or forget much that we had.

I suggested omitting any mention of McMillan documents on the show because they were not there and he agreed. (He did not take the hint and say they would not appear.)

The pre-show was a needless mess. That Brown was going to use part of the Gregory tape he did not tell me until we met at the studio. I guess it was a sop to his friend to whom he represnted himself as having spoken severely.

Perhaps Dick had really felt he could not appear if the Z film would not be shown. Doesn't make sense. It can also be that he used that as an excuse not to appear with me because he must know what I've been saying about their insane claims. I don't think he'd have dared say he would not appear with me.